

Inter Nos

A Q U A R T E R L Y

Mount St. Mary's
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Editorial

Since our June issue, the college has sustained a great loss, in the death of a faculty member, Sister M. Marguerite Ellard. Her death occurred on June 27, at Saint Vincent's Hospital, Los Angeles, where she was taken, because of a serious heart condition.

Sister had the consolation of a visit from her sister, Sister Helen Bertille superior of St. Joseph's Academy, Tucson, Arizona, and of her sister Agnes, Mrs. Garecht, whose daughter Ellen is an alumna of our college; also of her two brothers Rev. Gerald Ellard S.J., of Kansas City and Mr. Ferguson Ellard of San Francisco. Father Ellard was at hand, having been engaged to conduct a course in Liturgy during Summer Session at the Mount. He is a nationally recognized liturgical leader.

Sister Marguerite was head of the Home Economics Department and had raised it to a position, which earned favorable recognition from experts in that field.

Her pleasing personality won her many friends, both within and without the college and she will be greatly missed. We trust that she will remember us before the throne of God. May she rest in peace!

The college campus showed great activity during the month of July, when Summer Session brought a record-breaking attendance.

The new chapel at the Provincial House is nearing completion. Constructed without columns, the altar will be visible from every point. Due to the large number in the Novitiate, the chapel has been a badly needed addition.

A card from Nellie Jansen '36 reports that she is touring Europe, with her two nieces, Ann and Maureen. Her greeting comes from Lourdes, where she remembered us in prayer.

The tour will include the Netherlands, land of her forebears. They will also visit Rome, Naples, Foggia and Assisi.

Sister Celestine and Sister Timothy have been enjoying European study and travel, attending some outstanding musical sessions in France.

—Sister M. Dolorosa

History of the Borough of Higham Ferrers Northamptonshire

By Patricia Mears

INTRODUCTION

In this paper I would like to recount—far too briefly, I'm afraid—the history of Higham Ferrers. I lived in this town for the first eight years of my life; some of my relatives still live there, and many of my friends. As a child I played among the historical monuments—which I will speak of in the course of these pages—with that profanity for whatever is old and valuable, which is so common to the person who does not reflect and think; and I would like to take this opportunity to make reparation for such acts of “desecration” as rolling head-over-heels down the grassy hollow in Castle Field, and throwing stones in the moat to make the sleepy, green water ripple. For believing in the ghost at the top of the stone stair-way in All Souls' Chapel, and speculating with my cousin as to whether the tunnel, which we investigated with the aid of spills made of sheets torn from a particularly offensive arithmetic review book, really led to a secret panel in the Bede House, should anyone care to take advantage of its dubious comforts. It seems painfully obvious to me now that it was only a drainpipe.

The main part of the paper will deal with the late Middle Ages, for this is the time when I consider Higham Ferrers was at its height. I do not mean to imply, consequently, that it is a Britannic Sleepy Hollow, far the contrary, for it is a leading Midland shoe-manufacturing town. In fact this is the enigma of Higham—how the old and new could come together to form such a tasteful combination of the best qualities of each age.

As I said, the paper will be far too short to really do the town justice, but I hope that my effort will carry with it a small tribute and a great deal of love for my home.

GEOLOGY, PALEONTOLOGY, and PHYSICAL FEATURES

The borough of Higham Ferrers is located in the county of Northamptonshire—“the midmost of the midlands,” being about sixty-five miles northwest of London. The county itself is wedge-shaped; that is, its length, about seventy miles, is three times as great as its width, which varies in breadth, but is nowhere greater than twenty-six miles. It is bounded north by Lincolnshire, northwest by Rutland and Leicestershire, west by Warwickshire, southwest and south by Oxfordshire, southeast by Buckinghamshire, and east by Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, and Cambridgeshire; the total area being 1,003.1 square miles. Thomas Fuller, the church-historian of Aldwinckle All Saints, born in 1608, saw fit to remark of the County:

It bordereth on more counties than any other in England, being nine in number. . . . It is as fruitful and populous as any in England, insomuch that sixteen several towns, with their churches, have at one view been discovered therein, by my eyes (other men have discovered two-and-thirty), which I confess none of the best; and God grant that those who are sharper sighted may hereafter never see fewer. Sure I am that there is as little waste ground in this as in any county in England (no mosses, mears, fells, heaths which elsewhere fills so many shires with much emptiness); Northamptonshire being an apple, without core to be cut out, or rind to be pared away.¹

The entire county lies within the belt of Jurassic formations which extend across England from the coast of Dorsetshire all the way to the north coast of Yorkshire. The Jurassic belt lies between Triassic and the Cretaceous deposits, and belongs to the Mesozoic Era. In Northamptonshire this belt consists in the *Lias*, which is the great basal formation, with a thickness of about 850 ft. (Lower Lias, 650 ft., Middle Lias or Marlstone, 30 ft., Upper Lias from 150 to 200 ft.), and the *Oolites*.² In Higham Ferrers "the soil is mixed, the subsoil for the most part Great Oolite with streaks of Cornbrash on the east and Upper Lias on the west."³ Cornbrash is the second uppermost divisional belt of Great Oolite. "The Cornbrash crops out from under the Oxford Clay, on the southern escarpment of the Nene Valley; ranging in from Bedfordshire at a point upon the boundary of the county near Rushden"⁴ (Rushden now being practically continuous with Higham). Oxford Clay is the highest representative of the Oolites in this county. It is very rich in fossils, yielding numerous *ammonites*, *belemnites*, large oysters, *suarians*—including the huge *Pliosaurus*—and a great deal of wood which has since become converted into jet.

The Upper Lias which forms the geological structure of the west of the town is rich in clay, and such clay is worked for brick-making. Large brickworks are located in such nearby towns as Kettering (ten miles northwest) and Wellingborough (five miles west). "This clay abounds with paleontological remains, such as those of large *Ichthyosauri* and *Teleosauri*, *ammonites* and *belemnites*, *Gryphaea*, *Astrea* and other bivalves."⁵

Although the importance of the Lias for brick-making can be seen, it is in the Oolite that the mineral wealth, the iron-stone, building-stone, and slate occur. Northampton sand, which contains the famous iron-stone, occurs in Inferior Oolite, which is actually closest to the basic Lias, but has come to the surface either as the result of an upthrust or has been mined. "The aggregate thickness of the Northampton sand is about 80 ft.; and it is the lower division which yields the iron ore, which has been worked from about the year 1850."⁶

¹Murray, *Handbook For Northamptonshire And Rutland*. (London: Edward Stanford Press 1901.) pg. 1.

²*Ibid.* pg. 4.

³Ryland & Serjeantson, *The Victoria History of Northamptonshire*. Volume III (London: St. Catherine's Press, 1930) pg. 263.

⁴Murray, *Op. cit.* pg. 6.

⁵Murray, *Op. cit.* pg. 5.

⁶*Ibid.* pg. 5.

The iron-stone itself occurs in its greatest thickness in the neighborhood of Northampton (this city being about fifteen miles southwest of Higham Ferrers).

From the fossil evidence already named it is noted that both vertebrate and invertebrate forms are represented. However, both types shared a marine habitat. The saurian reptiles, which may perhaps be called the "trademark" of the Mesozoic Era, are represented by such forms as the *Ichthyosaurus*, (marine as shown by the name—ikthus, Greek—fish) a huge, short necked lizard, the *Pliosaurus*, a marine fossil saurian reptile well known in Upper Oolitic formations, and the *Teleosaurus*, a crocodilian reptile with a long slender snout. *Belemnites* are the fossil internal shells of an extinct family of cuttle-fish (Cephalopods belonging to the phylum—*Mollusca*, soft-bodied animals with or without shells—by virtue of this internal bone or shell. Ammonites are also Cephalopods, but this group are of that class that has a flat spiral shell (named from the horn of Ammon which was made from a curved ram's horn). *Astrea* is a genus of corals without any pores; as the name implies—the star coral. *Gryphaea* is a genus of fossil shells, occurring from the Lias to the Tertiary, which is allied to the oyster, and, in fact, looks very much like it, having the left valve arched with an inwaved beak and a flat right valve. Other fossils mentioned were large oysters, and other bivalves (Molluscs with two shells—the Pelecypods, or "hatchet-footed" animals). The clay of the Upper Lias has also yielded a unique crustacean, "a clawless lobster (like a large prawn), *Peneus Sharpii*."⁷

Since the land on the east side of the town is newer, more recent, it can be seen that the River Nene has had the effect of boring away the earth until its bed evidences the Upper Lias formation. Therefore we see the double process of the eating away of ground on the west, and the subsequent build up of land on the east, so that a gentle, gradual rise occurs from the river up to the higher ground on which the town is built.

Higham Ferrers itself lies between Stanwick on the north, Chelveston cum Caldecote on the east, Rushden to the south, and the River Nene separates it from Irthlingborough on the west.

It has an area of 1,945 acres, 696 of which are arable land, wheat, barley, beans being the chief crops, 810 acres of permanent grass and 13 acres of woods and plantations. . . . The parish is generally 200 feet above the ordnance datum, rising in the south east to 300 ft. Open fields called 'The Buscotts' and 'No Man's Ley' were inclosed in 1800 and other waste lands in 1838.⁸

The most obvious physical feature of the town is the River Nene. It has sources in the central watershed of England; one being by the side of the road in the village of Naseby, and another—the Nene Pool—a marshy swamp below Arbury hill in Rugby—which is actually in the neighboring county of Warwickshire. From thence it flows through the entire county of Northamptonshire in a north-

⁷Murray, *Op. cit.* pg.5.

⁸Ryland & Serjeantson, *Op. cit.* pg. 263.

easterly direction along the foot of the uplands, draining them to the River Walsh, and eventually to the sea. "In primitive times the waters of the North Sea reached almost to the foot of the Northampton uplands,"⁹ and indeed, the fact that the land was covered by the ocean until the comparatively recent time of a hundred and fifty million years ago, is further evidenced by the fossil material already discussed.

There are other small tributaries of the Nene in the surrounding countryside. One of these being a small brook with crystal clear water which flows along at the foot of several nearby fields and crosses under the road leading to the neighboring village of Stanwick. For anyone interested, this brook is the home of some few beds of very tasty watercress, while the river itself abounds with jack and bream.

The Castle Moat appears to have been dug expressly for that purpose, and therefore cannot be discussed as a natural physical feature. (I shall discuss this subject more fully later on.) The Saffron Moat, however, in spite of its name, appears to have been formed naturally. The reason for the term—moat—seems to refer to its unusual shape. In fact, it is more commonly known as the "Cup and Saucer" because it looks like a "cup" of land set in the center of a surrounding "saucer" of water; and a small strip of land joins the "cup" to the land around the "saucer." This unusual feature is located in the public recreation ground, but being surrounded by trees and bushes which almost completely conceal its existence, it is rather hard to find. It was shown to me by my friends as a sort of "secret place" when I was twelve. Up to that time I had never heard of it, and when—in preparing to write this paper—I mentioned it to my mother, who had lived in Higham Ferrers for fourteen years, she knew nothing of either its existence or whereabouts. You can see for yourselves how closely this place has been guarded in case anyone should poach on the abundant supply of minute fishes which so delight the hearts of small boys, not to mention a wealth of tadpoles and newts.

PREHISTORIC and ROMAN BRITAIN

According to Tony Ireson, man first came to Britain some 75,000 years ago, before the forests grew.¹⁰ At that time Britain was connected to the continent of Europe by a narrow strip of land. The glaciers of the Ice Age had melted, and this strip of land gave animals from the Continent a chance to seek new feeding grounds. Since Old Stone Age man was a hunter, he followed hard on the heels of these animals. Apparently everything went well for several hundred years, but man made no advances—being quite content with hunting—and when the weather grew increasingly warmer, and animals such as the mammoth, which were only accustomed to a very chill climate, became fewer and farther between, his supply of food was eventually reduced to nuts and berries, and he died out.

⁹*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Article: "Northamptonshire" (New York: Encyclopaedia Publishing Company, 1920 14th. Edition.) pg. 518.

¹⁰Tony Ireson, *Northamptonshire*. (London: Robert Hale Limited, 1954) pg. 18.

"A few fragments of his implements yielded by the gravels of the Nene Valley are his only epitaph."¹¹

The next people who attempted life in Britain did not come until about 3,000 B.C. By this time the outline of the continents had changed and the land bridge no longer existed. This meant that the new settlers had to come by way of the sea. These were men of the New Stone Age; they had primitive but effective tools; they were agriculturally inclined; and they could make pottery, and spin and weave. These people apparently came from France and settled on the uplands of Northamptonshire; "Peterborough has yielded important finds of early pottery."¹² About a thousand years passed and then another tribe came over from the Continent. With them they brought the secret of smelting and casting metals, and thus the Bronze Age came to Britain. Still later Belgic immigrants arrived; they had gone one step further—they knew how to find and smelt iron ore, thus forming iron—a metal that was stronger and more durable than anything previous to this time. Now, for the first time, we see the iron-ore which was so abundant in Northampton sand being put to use. This great emphasis on weapons of iron did not cause those who worked in bronze to suffer a business recession, as might be supposed. But rather:

Looking down on the merely utilitarian iron workers, they developed their craft as an art, making strikingly beautiful shields, scabbards, collars and horse-trappings that would show the rank and wealth of warriors using them.¹³

Since the few articles found are of the La Tène I and La Tène II culture, it may be well at this point to go into this a little further:

La Tène ("the Shallows"), the site which gives its name to the culture of the second Iron Age of Central and Western Europe, lies in Switzerland, at the east end of the Lake of Neuchâtel. It was not the starting point of that culture, as it seems only to have occupied from the Middle La Tène period; but it was here that objects characteristic of the La Tène civilization were first identified.¹⁴

The men who are specialists in this culture do not altogether agree on the division of its periods, but Phase A and B are generally understood to be interchangeable with La Tène I, Phase C with II, and Phase D with III. Phase A ended before the culture entered the British Isles, but Phase B, with such representative articles as shortish swords with scabbards with a tre-foil or an open-work end mounting; fibulae of the type with the foot bent back towards the bow; and numerous torcs—twisted necklaces or collars—and armlets, those with "buffer" or "seal-top" terminals being specially characteristic. Evidence shows this period to have ended about 300 B.C. Phase C, or Period II—the Middle Period—covers the time

¹¹*Ibid.* pg. 19.

¹²*Encyclopaedia Britannica*: Article: "Northamptonshire" (New York: Encyclopaedia Publishing Company, 1920 14th. Edition) pg. 518.

¹³Ireson, *Op. cit.* pg. 20.

¹⁴*Encyclopaedia Britannica*: Article: "La Tene" (New York: Encyclopaedia Publishing Company, 1920 14th. Edition.) pg. 738.

before and after 200 B.C. and "this phase is sparsely represented in England."¹⁵ In it are found such objects as longer swords with bell-shaped guards; scabbards, often finely decorated with compressed, constricted, or heart-shaped ends; broad-bladed spearheads; fibulae with the feet actually clasping the bows (whereas before they were merely bent back towards the bow); chain girdles; and a variety of armlets, but few torcs.

During this later Bronze Age hill camps were established, and since the La Tène culture saw the introduction of coinage, actual money replaced the ancient system of barter, and trading centers, which sprang up at the intersections of travel routes or likely places on river banks saw the beginnings of town life.

When Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 B.C., he did so not for any strategic military motive, but because he wanted to add to his prestige. The people were used to seeing him conquer nations and tribes, and he had a reputation to keep up. His confidence in the success of his mission was misplaced, because, as soon became evident, the Britons were not kindly disposed to being invaded, and turned back his troops before they had penetrated even ten miles inland. He was more successful with his second attempt; this time he got as far north as Hertfordshire. Trouble in Gaul led Caesar to withdraw his men; they crossed the Channel and did not return in a hostile capacity for nearly a hundred years. When an attack came again it was in 43 A.D. under Claudius. At that time there were many Roman sympathizers in Britain. It was due to this fact and the hardness of the troops that within three or four years the whole south and center of the country had been taken over—"either annexed or left to be governed by puppet princes."¹⁶ (The island was far from subjugated however, as the Romans were to learn in the trying, long-drawn-out fighting with the war-like tribes of Wales and those to the north and into present-day Scotland.) At that time Northamptonshire and the area surrounding it were thought of as safely in hand, but the conquerors failed to take one fact into consideration. Although the county was occupied by the Coritani, it was under the control of the Iceni. Prasutagus ruled the tribe in name, but he was really only a "puppet prince." At his death, about 60 A.D., he willed half his property to his daughters and half to the emperor Nero, as a good-will move to insure the continued "kindness" of the Romans. In spite of this, his lands were forcibly annexed, his wife scourged, his daughters outraged and his chief tribesmen were plundered. His wife was not the type of person to take this sort of thing lying down, in fact, his wife was Boadicea. Under her energetic leadership half of Britain rose (not purely from indignation at her treatment, but egged on by heavy taxation, conscription, and other similar causes). After the Britons had burned quite a few important Roman towns, including Colchester and London (Londinium), Paulinus—who had been away in Wales—rushed back and confronted them in a desperate battle. The actual site is unknown, many favor-

¹⁵*Ibid.* pg. 738.

¹⁶Tony Ireson, *Op. cit.* pg. 23.

ing King's Cross as the battleground, but "probably it was on Watling Street, between London and Chester."¹⁷ The Queen took poison, and thousands of the rebels were hunted down and killed. Although the traditional burial place of Boadicea is under King's Cross Station, Dr. J. L. Scott, who was Keeper of Manuscripts and Egerton Librarian of the British Museum, favors the idea of Whittlebury Forest in Northamptonshire—through which the fleeing Britons would have to have passed—as the actual resting place.

He discovered during research into the time of Edward I a deed granting land in Whittlebury, Northamptonshire, near 'Dedequene-mor' (Dead Queen Moor) and another deed of the same reign in the British Museum related to land in Northamptonshire lying on 'le dedequene fourlong'. Dr. Scott said at the time that his discovery 'Seemed to connect the county of Northampton with the tragic death of the ill-fated queen'.¹⁸

As time passed, Rome adopted a more humane policy, and the situation in Britain became quiet. Both of the great Roman roads, Ermine Street, and Watling Street crossed Northamptonshire. The former crosses the northeast corner from Castor to Stamford, in its run from London to Lincoln and York; the latter crosses the western part of the county from Stony Stratford through Towcester and Weedon, in its run from London (St. Albans to be exact) to Chester. The principal Roman town was Durobrivae, or Castor, which is very close to Peterborough. There were also three other important stations, Towcester, Lilbourne, and Irchester (only about four miles from Higham Ferrers); Bannaventa was another small, rather dull station. Mr. Ireson supports the theory that St. Patrick came from the latter town, basing this on the fact that:

In his (St. Patrick's) own account of his life, the **Confessio**, he says that he was born at "Bannavem Taberniae". Scholars have admitted that this points directly to Bannaventa, but refuse a definite affirmative because there is no explanation for the last three syllables.¹⁹

The Nene Valley seems to have been well populated during Roman times, and the whole area contains relics, such as the remains of villas and castra, and, while being far from worthless, pottery and coins are reasonably common finds. Iron, stone and clay were worked, and native artisans were encouraged. At Castor, remains of pottery kilns show that it was the centre of great activity. Here the famous Castor "ware," which was in demand all over Roman Britain, was produced. It "is famous because it resisted Roman influence and retained all the liveliness of Celtic art."²⁰ It was usually a dull slate in color, but apparently certain trade secrets employed at the time of firing gave it a blue or coppery tint.

The seriousness of the situation in the center of the Roman Empire

¹⁷*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Article: "Boadicea" (New York: Encyclopaedia Publishing Company, 1920 14th. Edition) pg. 760.

¹⁸Tony Ireson, *Op. cit.* pg. 17.

¹⁹*Ibid.* pg. 26.

²⁰*Ibid.* pg. 24.

necessitated the recall of soldiers from Britain about 410 A.D. Eventually almost all the Romans left and Northamptonshire became one of the last refuges of the Romanized Britons against the invading Angles and Saxons, who were, by that time, over-running England from both the north and the south.

ANGLES, SAXONS, DANES, and NORMANS

As mentioned at the end of the last chapter, the Angles and Saxons were making fairly successful headway in Britain about this time. They used the Roman roads for their penetration, and since Northamptonshire is crossed by two of these roads, we see that even this county, protected as it was by marshy fens, was eventually taken over by the invading tribes. As invasions go, that of the Anglo-Saxons was quite peaceful and tolerable. They built new towns on the high land near rivers; the system of crop-rotation was introduced, and every man had his share of meadow and pasture land—undeniable roots of the future, infinitely more involved, feudal system. The missionaries, who had left with the last of the Romans, returned, “and under the Cross, people of differing races lived happily together.”²¹

The present-day counties of Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, and quite possibly some bits of surrounding counties were occupied by the Middle Angles. This settlement was one of the five regions out of which the king, Penda, created the kingdom of Mercia. (The West Saxons also penetrated into the region, but “their influence never spread further north than a line from Daven-try to Warwick, and, with the extension of the Mercian kingdom under Penda and the conversion of the midland district, ceased altogether.”²²) In 655, Peada, the son of Penda, began to build the abbey at Medeshamstede (now Peterborough).

In the late eighth and through the ninth century there was a new invasion. This time it was from the North. The Vikings were the masters of the seas in those days, so it was no great wonder that when provisions and lands were scarce at home, they went out seeking “greener pastures.” Unfortunately a great number of the missionaries and priests who returned to Britain had chosen to build their monasteries and houses in small sheltered coves quite close to the sea-shore. It was on these defenseless men of God that the Northmen launched their first, furious attack. Within a brief amount of time they would kill, plunder, and burn, and then sail off homeward. They soon spread the word that the British coasts were undefended by ships or warriors, and more and more of their countrymen came to try their luck in the unhappy country. When all the available coast towns were burned and looted, they struck inland, and, wherever possible, re-launched their ships on the inland rivers. As more territory fell to them, their character changed, they were no longer merely raiders, but now their sporadic attacks became a full scale invasion, and they were intent on seizing the entire country.

²¹Tony Ireson, *Op. cit.*, pg. 26.

²²*Op. cit.*, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Article: “Northamptonshire” pg. 518.

King Alfred managed to rouse the inhabitants, and his Wessex men fought back strongly after having been pushed as far as Cornwall, and forced the Danes to the northeast. After considerably weakening the Danish forces, in 878 he negotiated a treaty with their leader, Guthrum (or Gunthrum), concerning the establishment of the southern boundary of Danelaw:

“upon the Thames, along the Lea to its source, then right to Bedford, and then upon the Cuse to Watling Street.”²³

We have already mentioned that Watling Street crossed Northamptonshire in the southwest, and therefore, Alfred kept the southern tip, but all the rest of the central and eastern part of the county went to the Danes. After Alfred's death, Edward the Elder and his sister Ethelfleda began to formulate plans for the reconquest of Danelaw. As their plans crystalized, they established areas of English rule built around what had formerly been five Danish boroughs. In this way in 921, the shire of Northampton came into being, and its Danish ruler was responsible to Edward. Gradually the entire kingdom of Mercia was recovered. By this time the remaining Danes were peaceful and perfectly willing to be absorbed into the Anglo-Saxon community. They had become traders and were openly opposed to further invasions from the North.

However, the invaders from the North had other ideas; Sweyn Forkbeard fought two wars with Ethelred the Unready, and it was during these that in 1010 he actually burned the city of Northampton and surrounding villages. The Danegeld tax was re-imposed, to the dismay of the peasantry; a step toward immediate misery and potential ruin. Once again the Danish power was high in Britain, so high, in fact, that the Saxon Witan chose (?) a Danish king. This was Canute—luckily he had mellowed since boyhood days when he had accompanied his father on Viking raids—and he made a good king despite the failure of his dream to bring Denmark, Norway, the Hebrides, and his part of England together as his own small empire. His two sons, Harold Harefoot, and Hardicanute were both sadly lacking, and their inefficiency was shown up even more by the fact that the next king was Edward the Confessor. Here we have the unusual:

A king of piety and humility, who had no political ambition, few material desires, and only wished to see his people happy. Though these were stormy times, his reign was free from serious trouble, except²⁴

Just when everything was going along peacefully, Edward made the mistake of creating Tostig the Earl of Northumberland. Apparently the people had favored Morcar, and they set out southward to inform the king what was on their mind. Harold Godwin was sent to try and calm them down, and did so by promising that Tostig would be sent into exile. Since this announcement was made without Edward's

²³Murray, *Op. cit.* pg. 8.

²⁴Tony Ireson, *Op. cit.* pg. 30.

knowledge or consent, numerous details had to be cleared up, and, of course, this took time. The Northumbrians for Morcar were kept waiting, and, sad to say, they were kept waiting in Northamptonshire. They began to seize cattle for food, and answered complaints regarding their abominable behavior with hangings and farm burnings. Very soon there was all out private warfare between the Northumbrians and the people of our county, who had nothing to do with the original quarrel between Tostig and Morcar in the first place. "Hatred for the Northumbrians continued in Northamptonshire for many years, and was not extinguished even by the Norman Conquest."²⁵

When Edward the Confessor died, Harold, son of Godwin, Earl of Wessex, ascended the throne, and had to face the almost immediate combined attacks of William, Duke of Normandy, and Harold Hardrada, King of Norway. In spite of the magnificent fight he put up, poor Harold really hadn't a chance. When he heard that William's fleet was held up by storms, he rushed his troupes up to the north-east, and there he met and defeated Hardrada's men who were advancing down through Northumbria. Because William was expected any day, he then had to turn around and rush back to the south, without food or rest. Edwin and Morcar had grudgingly promised to follow him, but they arrived too late, and found Harold and the others who had fought so bravely with their king, lying dead on the field of Hastings. William (now "the Conqueror") was crowned in Westminster on Christmas Day 1066, and the English sadly realized that the Normans had come to stay.

Because the Normans had received a deservedly terrifying reputation for the various ways in which they dealt with those who rebelled, everyone was naturally curious as to what William would do with Waltheof, son of Siward, Earl of Northumberland, who had done a great deal of damage to Norman arms and fortifications by the staunch resistance he was offering in the north. William did a complete turn-about in his policy, and not only pardoned Waltheof, but married him to his (William's) favorite niece, Judith, and then generously included the earldoms of Northampton and Huntingdon. Judith was quite a land-owner in her own right, having received many presents from her uncle William, which included estates in Northamptonshire.

But the marriage was not successful; hatred of the Normans was deeply instilled in Waltheof's heart, and apparently Judith's shortcomings did nothing to alleviate it, and when the big anti-Norman rebellion began in 1069, he joined in wholeheartedly. The Conqueror's punishment for such an uprising was as follows:

"Between York and Durham he threw down every house and killed every man, and woman and child his cavalry could catch. Nearly twenty years later scores of villages were still empty ruins. Then there was peace in the north—the peace of a graveyard."²⁶

²⁵*Ibid.*, pg. 31.

²⁶Tony Ireson, *Op. cit.*, pg. 32.

Surprisingly enough, William forgave Waltheof a second time, and on this occasion he decided that a nice quiet life in Northampton was definitely more healthy. Judith was only waiting for a chance to get rid of her husband, and when a new revolt broke out, in spite of his refusal to join, she went to her uncle and accused him of taking part. This time William did not forgive or forget, and his poor misrepresented nephew was disposed of very soon afterward.

THE HIGHAM HUNDRED

Higham was a well known Saxon burgh long before the Conquest. The name itself—which has alternate spellings of Hecham (11th. century), Hehham, Heicham, Hekham (12th. century), Hegham, Heigham, Hetham (13th. century)—means the “high ham” or high ground on the slope above the River Nene. Because it was a market town and the center of a good deal of commerce, it had rough earth-work fortifications, and these were later strengthened by the Norman overlords. In the time of Edward the Confessor, we find that the town was held by a certain Gitda, who is mentioned later on in the Higham Hundred of the *Doomsday Book* as having held this land.

Gitda, a powerful thane (a person holding lands of the king by military service among the Anglo-Saxons and Scots), held freely or independently of any superior lord an estate of considerable extent in this county (Northamptonshire), comprising Higham (Ferrars) with its nine berewicks (a wick or village in which barley is grown, here a detached portion of land belonging to a manor), Rushden, Chelveston, Caldecote, Knuston, Irchester, Raundes, Easton (Mauduit); and Farndish, and Puddington in Bedfordshire; Newbottle with its five berewicks, Althorp, Brington, Harleston, Clasthorp and Flore; Dunston, Blisworth, Courteenhall, (Paverli's) Pery, Catesby, Naseby with a part of Clipston, and a share of Guildsbrough, Blakeley, and Milton (Malsor).²⁷

It was William the Conqueror's usual policy to split up the holdings of the ousted Saxon nobles, thus making it necessary not only for the new Norman lords to travel about the country visiting their different possessions, thereby keeping them occupied and “out of his hair”; but also making it difficult for the people, who had previously not been separated, to come together and organize any successful sort of rebellion. Here again we note a reversal of William's policy, because we see from the *Doomsday Book* that he handed the entire holding over to William Peverel. Peverel is generally held to be the illegitimate son of the Conqueror of Maud, the daughter and heiress of Ingeric (a noble Saxon), who later married Ranulph Peverel, lord of Hatfield. This provides an extremely plausible reason for such a generous gift.

He held in capite thirty-two houses in Northampton, and the whole or portions of forty-five villis (feudal territorial units answering to a parish or township) in this county (Northamptonshire), of which he retained in demesne (the lord's own land) Higham with its nine berewicks, Newbottle with its five berewicks, Dunston,

²⁷George Baker, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Northamptonshire*. (London: Nichols Company, 1822-1830 Volume I) pg. 101.

Blisworth, Courteenhall, and Naseby: and the remainder were held under him by different feudatories, whilst he himself considered it no degradation to hold as feudatory tenant, or mesne lord, nine manors under the bishop of Bayeux, and one under the countess Judith.²⁸

In order to show the lands that William Peverel was given by the king, I would like to quote at great length from the *Doomsday Book*. This book was the first official record of the property owners living in England, and the exact amount of land that each held. In order to facilitate the work, the counties were divided into districts to be surveyed. Each region supplied a census taker who was familiar with his particular territory, and he in turn co-operated with the King's commissioners in this survey of 1086. This great work covered all the land that William held, and despite the fact that it does not include Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham, or Westmoreland, "information published in the *Doomsday Book* was considered final and authoritative."²⁹

This, then, is how it reads regarding Higham:

WILLIAM PEVEREL holds of the king HECHAM (Higham Ferrers). There are 6 hides (a measure of land about 120 acres). There is land for 12½ ploughs (a plough team of 8 oxen). Since one man could not afford to own 8 oxen, one or two plough teams did the ploughing of the entire village. "The village plough was mended by the village carpenter or smith, and the oxen grazed on the village pasture. The Reeve (bailiff or steward) was in charge."³⁰ In demesne there are 2 hides of this land, and there (are) 4 ploughs, and 4 serfs; and 16 villeins (a Saxon peasant who was unfree. He was 'not allowed to leave his village or sell his land or give his daughter in marriage without paying a fine to the lord of the Manor for license to do so. So many times a week the villeins had to work on the lord's demesne with extra work in hay and corn harvest.'³¹), and 9 bordars (a 'cottager who possessed perhaps 5 acres as compared with the villeins 30 acres.'³²), with a priest, have 8½ ploughs. There is a market rendering 20 shillings yearly, and a mill rendering (de) 20 shillings, and 10 acres of meadow. Wood(land) 1 furlong in length and another in breadth.

To this Manor pertain these members:—

In RISDENE (Rushden) 6 hides. There is land for 12 ploughs. 19 sochmen (one who is under the soc of another. Soc means the right to hold court—from the Saxon soccan—to contend. 'The right to hold court and do justice, with a franchise to receive certain fees or fines arising from it; jurisdiction over a certain territory or certain men'³³) have these there, and (there is) a mill rendering (de) 10 shillings, and 30 acres of meadow.

In CELUESTONE (Chelveston) and CALDECOTE (Caldecote) 1 hide and 3 virgates (about 30 acres. 4 virgates make 1 hide.) of land. There is land for 3 ploughs. 6 sochmen have these there, and 3 acres of meadow.

²⁸George Baker, *Op. cit.*, pg. 138.

²⁹*World Book Encyclopaedia*, Article: "The Doomsday Book" (New York: Field Enterprises Inc., 1952) pg. 2058.

³⁰J. H. Marlow, *The History of Bozeat Village*. (Northampton: J. Stevenson Holt, 1936) pg 2.

³¹*Ibid.*, pg. 2.

³²*Ibid.*, pg. 2.

³³*Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language*. 2nd. Edition Unabridged. (Springfield: G. & C. Merriam Co. Publ.) pg. 2391.

In CNUTESONE (Knutson) 1 hide and 1½ virgates of land. There is land for 2 ploughs. 5 sochmen have these there; and (there is) a mill there, rendering (de) 20 shillings, and 6 acres of meadow.

In IRENCESTRE (Irechester) 1 hide and 3 virgates of soc (land). There is land for 2 ploughs. Three sochmen have these there, and 10 acres of meadow. There is one Frenchman (**Francigena**) with 1 plough; and (there is) a mill there, rendering (de) 16 shillings, in dispute (calumniosum) between the King and William (Peverel).

In FARNEDIS (Farndish) 3 virgates of soc(land). There is land for 1 plough. 2 sochmen have this (plough) there.

In POTINTONE (Poddington) (in Bedfordshire) half a hide of socland. There are 4 villeins with 1 plough.

In ESTONE (Easton Mauduit) 1½ virgates of land. It is waste.

In RAUNDE (Raunds) 7½ hides and half a virgate, of soc(land), with (its) appendages. There is land for 14 ploughs. There are 20 villeins with 15 ploughs, and (there are) 20 acres of meadow.

The whole manor, with (its) appendages, was worth 10 pounds when he received it; now (it is worth) 18 pounds. Gitda held it with sac and soc.

The sochmen of Risdene (Rushden), Irencestre (Irechester), and Raunde (Raunds) were Burred's men, and therefore G(eoffrey) the bishop (of Coutances) claims their homage (hominacionem). The Land of the Bishop of Coutances—RAUNDE (Raunds) Of this land William (Peverel) claims against the Bishop, 1 hide and a half a virgate of land. Burred held this manor with sac and soc.³⁴

Besides holding Higham itself and the already mentioned nine berewicks, William Peverel also held practically all the rest of the Higham Hundred—and land in other Hundreds, such as Newbottle. A hundred is a division of a county or shire, but no one seems to know just when they were marked out and how they got their names. "Once a month, it was necessary for four men to attend 'Hundred Court' called Suit of Court, an unpopular duty."³⁵ The importance of Higham in those days can be seen by reason of making it the nominal manor of a hundred.

In the twelfth century, the Northamptonshire Survey was taken. Its content is basically the same as that of the *Doomsday Book* (hence it will not be quoted here), but, of course, it lists the more recent holders of the land, and supplies further information, which in some cases serves to clear up the true ownership of a half virgate or so here and there. There are still references to William Peverel as the original Norman lord, over such people as Eustace and Mantel.

THE DE FERRERS FAMILY

In this chapter I would like to discuss the de Ferrers family, not only because they gave their name to the town, but also for their influence in raising it to the dignity of a seignorial borough.

The name is that of a great Norman-English feudal house, derived from Ferrieres—St. Hilaire, to the south of Bernay, in Normandy.³⁶

³⁴Adkins & Serjeantson, *The Victoria History of Northamptonshire*. Volume I (London: Westminster, 1902) pgs. 336-37.

³⁵J. H. Marlow, *Op. cit.*, pg. 3.

The oldest known ancestor, Walkelin, was killed in a feud before William the Conqueror ascended the throne, but his son Henry took part in the Conquest, and was later given a great fief in the Midlands. This Henry had two sons; the eldest founded the Oakham line of the de Ferrers family, and Robert, the younger son, was created earl of Derby by King Stephen because of his services at the Battle of Standard, August 22, 1138.

William de Ferrers, the third earl of Derby, joined the revolt of 1173—the barons of the north and center of England rebelled against Henry II—and with the victory of the king William's castles of Tutbury and Duffield, which were fortified at the beginning of the revolt, were razed. He died later in 1190 at the siege of Acre during the Third Crusade.

William, the fourth earl, apparently attacked Nottingham on King Richard's behalf (this was in 1194 when Richard had returned to England after the Crusade and imprisonment to recover his kingdom, which had been left in the grasping hands of John Lackland.) However, by 1199 Richard was dead, having been killed in a desperate battle with the French monarch, Philip Augustus, and John, who now sat on the throne, no longer lacked land. Whether William thought it would be healthier to go over to King John's side, and avoid the razings of his castles, as in the previous reign, or whether John thought he would make a better friend than an enemy, and therefore offered a small concession to help the earl make up his mind, is not known. But one of John's first acts was to belt William and confirm his earlship:

"On June 7 at Northampton, William de Ferrers, earl of Derby, was belted by the king's own hand and granted the third penny of the pleas of his shire. The proceeding is rather curious. It was not a creation—William de Ferrers was already earl of Derby as his grandfather had been. But he was girded with the sword of his earldom and given the third penny 'as his ancestors had held it.' He was also granted the manor and hundred of Higham Ferrers with two subsidiary manors. This large estate that had been formed at 140 a year was part of the honor of Peverel of Nottingham and was given to the earl to satisfy his claim on the Peverel lands. He offered and paid the sum of 2,000 marks for the grant."³⁷

In regard to the phrase "to satisfy his claim on the Peverel lands" I would like to bring in the second earl. One source lists him as William de Ferrars who lived until 1167-8³⁸; while another source lists him as Robert de Ferrieres who died before 1160.³⁹ Since both the names William and Robert were in fairly common usage in this family it can be assumed that either the man in question bore both names, or that he is confused with his father (Robert) or his son (William). I prefer to use the former source as the more autori-

³⁶*Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Article: "Ferrers" (New York: Encyclopaedia Publishing Company, 1929, 14th. Edition) pg. 183.

³⁷Sidney Painter, *The Reign of King John*. (Baltimore: The John Hopkins Press, 1949) pg. 15.

³⁸George Baker, *Op. Cit.*, pg. 139.

³⁹David C. Douglas, *English Historical Documents*. (London: New York University Press, 1953-55. 2nd. Volume.) pg. 913 f.3.

tative, since I have found other variances in the latter. Anyway, the second earl (hereafter in this paper—William) married Margaret, the daughter and heiress of William Peverel—the grandson of the *Doomsday Book* William Peverel—and Avice de Lancaster.

Thus we see that, while being the rightful heir to this land, William, the fourth earl, by reason of the De Ferrers and Peverel families often joining rebellions of the barons against the king (in which case the land of the rebel should escheat to the king) felt that his claim needed substantial strengthening, and thus for unknown reasons was confirmed in the ownership by the king himself.

Still another source lists the man who received this land from the king as William de Ferrers—the *fifth* earl of Derby.

“William of Normandy gave Higham to one of his favourite commanders—some say his bastard son—William Peverel. About a hundred years later Peverel’s grandson forfeited his lands, and Higham returned to the King. John gave it to an old friend of his, William de Ferrers, fifth Earl of Derby, who claimed to be Peverel’s rightful heir, in exchange for 2,000 marks.”⁴⁰

Besides being belted by the king, and confused in various sources, William, the fourth earl, was an extremely active man, and as I have already mentioned, changed sides with facility. With the earl of Chester, and William Marshal he helped to secure the succession of Henry III (John’s son), joining in the battle of Mountsurrel and the battle of Lincoln, but later in 1227, when Henry did not prove as affable as they had hoped, he rose with the other barons against the king; and “in 1237 he was one of three counselors forced on the king by the barons.”⁴¹ After such a long, absorbing career he died in 1247, leaving as his heir the man in whom we are most interested in regard to Higham—William de Ferrers—the fifth earl of Derby.

He decided that there were now enough serfs at Higham who could run their own affairs, and so he chose seventy-seven men and fourteen women from the town, and formally gave them their freedom and the right to govern themselves as burgesses of the new borough.

Although the first official charter of March 12, 1251, has been lost, the document that accompanied it—the one giving the former serfs their freedom—is still in the town’s possession. I would like to quote this document in its entirety:

CHARTER OF WILLIAM DE FERRERS, DATED 1251

“TO ALL by whom these presents may be seen or heard, William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby sends Greeting:

⁴⁰*Souvenir of the 700th. Anniversary of the First Borough Charter and of the Festival of Britain.* (Rushden; Northamptonshire Printing and Pub. Co., 1951) pg. 7.

⁴¹*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Article: “Ferrers” *Op. cit.*, pg. 183.

KNOW YE that we, on Saint Gregory's day in the 35th. year of the reign of King Henry son of King John, have granted and by this our present charter confirmed for ourselves and our heirs, that all the underwritten men of Hecham to wit:

Fulk Luft	William son of Geoffrey
Adelina daughter of Laurk	Thomas Tredebalk
Roger Berker	Hugh Grinde
Richard Purme	Walter Grey
William son of Fromund	William Brun
Miles the Butcher	Robert de Raundes
William son of Ralph	John the Baker
Simon Muschet	Alice la Wayte
Reginald Pruet	Robert the Miller
Ralph son of Walter	Simon Burel
Walter son of Miles	Peter Ingeram
Simon Sely	Henfrey Leuces
William Acer	Richard son of Henry
Andrew Acer	Andrew son of Joscelin
Hugh de Holm	Simon Halpeny
Halnot the Clerk	Richard de Horsholm
Beatrice Kisse	Bartholomew son of Warin
Robert Tugeys	Gelda and Alice Hasting
Elyas Pedefer	Muriel Parson
Margaret in Lane	Bartholomew de Roteland
William Weyte	Andrew Grey
Bartholomew de Stanwigg	Richard son of Alan
Roger son of Andrew	Matthew the Clerk
William Stocker	Andrew son of Andrew
Robert son of Stephen	Andrew Sweyn
Matilda relict of Adam	Richard the Fisherman
Emma relict of Nicholas Hamund	Richard Fritun
William de Norfolch	Nicholas Bunting
Thomas the Cook	Walter the Skinner
Ralph the Cobbler	Walter Kiggel (mentioned twice)
Alice daughter of Thomas Pimme	Robert Acer
Roger Hende	Fromund
Ralph son of Hugh	Ralph de Irlingbure
Adelina Drye	Cristina de Holm
Richard Grundcert	William de Bernewell
Walter Kiggel	Hugh son of Alice
Ralph the Cook	Ingrid the Widow
William de Wittlewode	William Tailor
William de Wolfheg	Philip the Smith
Hugh at the Gate of the Church	John Haket
Andrew son of William	Muriell Bones
Adam Grey	Hugh Ruffus
John Grey	Ralph de Rylse
Robert son of William	Thomas son of Geoffrey
Robert Wafrur	Thomas son of Godwin
	Philip Faulkes

with their families (sequela), lands and tenements and all their chattels shall be free as regards ourselves and our heirs forever; so that we and our heirs henceforth shall not be able to have or exact any servitude from them or from any of their issue. And that their lands and chattels and tenements within the town of Hecham and without, which they formerly held at our will, they shall have and hold of us and our heirs for free burgages henceforth, as is contained in our charter which we caused to be made to them concerning their having a free borough in Hecham.

IN WITNESS whereof we have set our seal to these presents for ourselves and our heirs in the presence of

Hugh de Meynil, then Steward
 Peter de Gatesden
 Payne de Sacto Philiberto
 John Bassard
 Thomas de Everas
 Richard de Neueton
 Robert de Mercinton
 Geoffrey de Normanville
 Simon de Nevill
 Roger de Ringstead
 Matthew de Haregrave
 William Maleviele
 Geoffrey Ruffus
 Andrew his son
 Robert the Clerk, then Chamber-
 lain to the Earl

William de Rolveston
 Henry de Hunesdon, then Steward
 of Hecham
 Henry de Raundes
 Richard de Gatesden
 Walter Cnostone
 Robert de Floribus
 Thomas Chappe
 Osbert of Russinden
 Fulk of the same
 Gilbert of Raundes
 Reginald the Merchant
 John Marshal
 John son of William de Stanwigg
 Robert son of Warin de Hecham
 and others."⁴²

Only three years after the charter was given, William died. Apparently he suffered from gout and had to be driven around in a carriage; one day the driver took a bridge at St. Neots in Huntingdonshire too fast, and the carriage, horses, driver, and William were all pitched into the river. It was from injuries suffered in this accident that he died in April, 1254.

Robert, the sixth and last earl, thus stepped into his father's place at the age of fifteen. He married a niece of Henry III, Isabel, but this did not prove an obstacle to his taking the part of the barons against his political uncle. ("Casó con una sobrina de Enrique III, Isabel, lo que no fué obstaculo para que adoptase el partido de los barones contra su tio politico."⁴³) And when Simon de Montfort, in command of the barons, rose against the king, Robert joined in wholeheartedly. In 1263 he took Worcester, sacked it, and then, because of this, was taken prisoner himself by Edward, the king's son. When he had "taken leave" of Edward, he fought successfully against the royal troops in the Battle of Chester in the following year. This was the year that Henry was defeated and captured at the Battle of Lewes. In 1265 he was one of the five earls summoned to Simon's parliament, and, for a change, it looked as if things were going quite peacefully for him. But now he chose to stand with the Earl of Gloucester who quarreled with Simon. This brought about another war in which Gloucester sided with the royal army, led by Edward, against Simon. Although greatly outnumbered, Montfort fought to the last and was killed. Because of siding with Gloucester, Simon had imprisoned Robert, and on being released in 1266 he found that, because of his part in the whole unpleasant affair, he was compelled to forfeit his castles, together with seven years revenues. Not satisfied with his heavy load he took up arms once again, this time on his estate in Derbyshire, and when defeated at Chesterfield by Henry Annayn, he was not only imprisoned, but this time all his lands and his earldom were taken from him. In 1269 he was freed and agreed to pay 50,000 for restoration and to pledge all his lands save

⁴²*Souvenir of the 700th. Anniversary of the First Borough Charter and of the Festival of Britain. Op. cit.,* pgs. 16-19.

⁴³*Enciclopedia Universal Ullustrada. Articulo: "Ferrers" (Bilbao: Espasa-Calpe, S.A., 1924) pg. 937.*

Chartley and Holbrook for its payment. However, he could not meet this payment and his lands escheated to the king. The king at this time was Edward, and he gave the land to his son Edmund of Lancaster, and Higham has remained in the Duchy of Lancaster ever since.

Robert had a step-brother William, who inherited the extensive estates of his mother, Margaret de Quincey, (Robert's mother was Sybilla Marshal) and it was he who established the Ferrers of Groby line.

The arms of the Ferrers family, in general, were the same as those of William Peverel-vaire, or gules- and they remained the same until the fifth earl of Derby. He added a bordure argent, charged with eight horseshoes sable—but his son, Robert, reverted to the original simple shield. The explanation for the horseshoes seems to be a pun on the name Ferrers, formerly Ferrieres, which is the equivalent of the English—farrier—one who shoes horses. Another explanation has been offered by Woodward:

“A horseshoe being the badge of the Marshalls, horseshoes were assumed as *armes parlantes* by their descendants, the Ferrers.”⁴⁴ (It has already been mentioned that Sybilla Marshal (Marshall) was the first wife of William de Ferrers, the fifth earl.)

Whether or not William Peverel built a castle is uncertain, but if he did it must have been destroyed when his little “falling out” with the king occurred, and the new castle built on the same site, for there is no record of two castles. We know that it had been built by 1322⁴⁵; and certainly it was in existence long before that, but no specific mention of it is made in any official documents. This can be reasoned to by looking back over the De Ferrers family history—the amount of power and land they held, and their singularly warlike careers.

To go on a little further in history, John of Gaunt (1340-1399) used Higham Ferrer's castle as his favorite hunting lodge, and even the infamous Henry VIII had an indirect connection with it:

“In 1523 Henry VIII ‘for certayn consideracions’ gave Sir Robert Wingfield, one-time Ambassador to France, a warrant entitling him to re-build nearly Kimbolton Castle, the last prison of Catherine of Aragon; and ‘as stone was very hard to bee gotten in those parties’, to take as much stone as he liked from Higham Ferrers Castle ‘beyng all Rased and in grete Ryne and decay’.”⁴⁶

Sad to say there is no record of when the castle was “Rased” or since when it had been “in grete Ruyne and decay,” and, rather regretfully, we must content ourselves with these meager facts. Today all that remains of the castle are great mounds of earth, a moat (long since fenced in to protect unwary people from falling into the slimy,

⁴⁴Arthur C. Fox-Davies, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry*. (London: Thomas Nelson & Sons, Ltd., 1905 Revised Edition) pg. 81.

⁴⁵*Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Article: “Higham Ferrers” *Op. Cit.* pg. 549.

⁴⁶*Souvenir of the 700th. Anniversary of the First Borough Charter and of the Festival of Britain. Op. cit.* pg.9.

overgrown water), "and a garden wall containing a dovecote."⁴⁶ (I never knew about the garden wall and dovecote, and therefore never had the opportunity to see them.)

Thus we see how the de Ferrers family formed an inseparable part of the history of Higham—which bears the family name in recognition—Ferrers. And in spite of the fact that none of the family actually lived in the town after the late 1300's the name has remained to let the world know the respect that it shows for a man who realized man's basic need to be free, and recognized the fact that a mere man can never be the Final Overlord.

THE 1400's and 1500's

I mentioned that Higham Ferrers has been in the Duchy of Lancaster since Edmund, Duke of Lancaster, received it after it escheated to the crown when Robert de Ferrers was unable to buy it back. But since Thomas of Lancaster, Edmund's son, was beheaded at Pontefract, the land was then given to Aymer de Valance, Earl of Pembroke. He didn't last long however, for on the reversal of his attainder, the estate was returned once more to the Lancasters, this time in the person of Henry, Thomas' younger brother. Although Henry had no sons to inherit the land, he did have two daughters, and one of these married John of Gaunt (see previous chapter). John's son was Henry IV, and therefore Higham Ferrers was again held by the king. It is under his rule that Higham really makes its claim to fame in the person of Archbishop Chichele.

Henry Chichele was a simple boy tending his father's herd (so the story goes) when William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, and Chancellor of England, saw that he had promise, and decided to become his patron and educate the boy. In accordance with his plan Chichele was educated at Winchester, and Oxford, and after prolonged study of the law, both civil and canon, he entered the Church. He rose rapidly to become Bishop of St. David's, and during this time he was sent by Henry IV as ambassador to the court of France and to Rome. The king recognized his ability and in 1414, at the age of forty-three, Chichele became Archbishop of Canterbury at Henry's nomination. In spite of the fact that he was constantly busy with innumerable affairs, he never forgot the town in which he was born, and it stands together with Oxford as the location of a college which he founded and supported by his benefits.

The College in Higham Ferrers stands on the main street, which is commonly called "College Street" at this point. Founded in 1422, the college was built around a quadrangle and took up a considerable space. It has a gabled front with a doorway, which is arched beneath a square hood. Above the doorway are three niches, apparently for the statues to whom the college was dedicated—"the Virgin Mary, St. Thomas of Canterbury, and St. Edward the Confessor."⁴⁸ This front portion facing the street also has some windows with

⁴⁷*Ibid.*, pg. 9.

⁴⁸*The Borough of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire*. Official Guide, Published for the Higham Ferrers Town Council (London: Edward J. Burrow and Co., Ltd., 1950.) pg. 16.

the same square-hooded effect as over the main door, the arch of another window in the gable, and some quaint gargoyles around the window. There were eighteen teaching positions at the college, but the composition varies in the different sources:

"The Higham College was for occupation by eight conons, four clerks, four choristers, a song master and a grammar master."⁴⁹

"The College was for a warden, seven fellows, four chaplains and six choristers, of which one of the Chaplains was to teach grammar and one chanting of singing."⁵⁰

Whatever the composition, we see that the good Archbishop saw to it that the spiritual as well as the temporal needs of his students were taken care of. When the Reformation came the spiritual facilities of the college were disposed of and only the secular aspects remained.

"But it never survived the Pilgrimage of Grace. In the 35th year of Henry's reign (1543), just a hundred years after the death of its founder, Higham Ferrers College was 'surrendered to the Crown'."⁵¹

It was later used as an inn—the Saracen's Head—but it continued to crumble away because no one bothered about repairing it, and by 1729 it was largely in a ruined condition. As the years went on it became a farm, and I can remember the time that hay was kept in what must have been its chapel, and there were hens in the cobbled quadrangle. Luckily in 1948 the Duchy of Lancaster gave the college to the Ministry of Works. They plan to restore it, as nearly as possible, to its original appearance, and this will be an extremely interesting feature for the town.

Archbishop Chichele did not care only for the young people, but showed his love for the older ones by establishing the Bede House one year later in 1423. This was built as an alms house to accommodate twelve men and one woman to cook their food. In return for this charity the men spent a great deal of their time praying for their benefactor. Unlike the College, the Bede House is almost perfectly preserved, even some of the old lockers still remain. The roof has been preserved (which is most unusual) and the fireplace is the original one. What makes the Bede House especially attractive is that it is built from alternate layers of light and dark stone. Although they no longer perform in their original capacity, Bedesmen are still elected today, and a bedeswoman still cooks them a meal each year on St. Thomas's Day. They are veterans nowadays, and can be spotted in the official positions by the red stars on their overcoats. "Their grant is the old rate of a penny a day."⁵²

This is really the ideal time to discuss the church of St. Mary the Virgin, but because of the length of this paper, and the genuine knowledge of Medieval architectural terminology (in which I am

⁴⁹*Ibid.*, pg. 15.

⁵⁰Tony Ireson, *Op. cit.* pg. 268.

⁵¹*Souvenir of the 700th Anniversary of the First Borough Charter and of the Festival of Britain. Op. cit.*, pg. 9.

⁵²*The Borough of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire. Official Guide. Op. cit.*, pg. 12.

⁵³*The Borough of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire. Official Guide Op. cit.*, pg. 12.

totally lacking) needed to do it justice, I shall limit myself to a few brief comments on the subject. Although started in the thirteenth century, different parts of the church have been added during succeeding periods. The lower part of the tower and the famous west entrance—decorated in bas relief with roundels representing scenes from the life of Christ—is early English, and the north aisle and the Lady Chapel are of the Decorated period. The hundred and seventy foot spire was rebuilt in 1631-32, when it fell bringing the south side of the church down with it, and despite a good deal of contrary opinion, the builders were as faithful to the original as possible. Besides being such an architectural gem, the inner furnishings of the church are especially rich in history and tradition. There are seven carved screens; four of them are very old, being placed there at the same time as Archbishop Chichele placed the twenty miserere seats in the chancel. In addition to other carvings, and fine windows, there is an abundance of brasses. These include “an effigy of an ecclesiastic and the name of Laurence St. Maur, a rector who died in 1337.”⁵³ There is an inscription to the Archbishop’s parents, Thomas and Agnes, and two effigies representing his brother, William, Sheriff and Alderman of London (d. 1425) and his wife, Beatrice. Needless to say, the church is no longer Catholic, and I am sure that this is a special sorrow for Chichele who loved the town so dearly. There are also two suits of Cromwellian armor in the church, and through the years different things have been added, such as the more modern screens and the organ. “It was restored in 1862 and its register dates from 1573.”⁵⁴

The remaining building in the Churchyard Group is the All Soul’s Chapel or Chantry. It is of a slightly later date than the Bede House being of the Perpendicular Period. It is a beautiful little building, simple and symmetrical. The windows are truly fine, and the pinnacles and parapets are remarkably well preserved. After the suppression of chantries under Henry VIII it became a grammar school, and was used in that capacity for more than three hundred years. I can remember going to Sunday school in this building, and being very intrigued by a narrow stone staircase that curved out of sight as it wound upward to the second level.

This then was Archbishop Chichele’s Higham—with the proper emphasis, and the correct source of motivation, as evidenced by the magnificent religious buildings that were produced. The people knew that this world was not their true end; they were always looking beyond it for something that is impossible to attain here. What they were seeking is true happiness, and for us—this can only be God.

FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

Because I view the late Middle Ages as the time when Higham Ferreres was at its height, I propose to bring its history up to the present as quickly as possible. Actually you will see that while

⁵⁴*Ibid.*, pg. 12.

many events of major importance took place, after Henry VIII so ruthlessly plundered "Our Lady's Dowry," and caused the church to change hands, nothing could have been more disastrous, and nothing short of reclamation could again produce the "Other-Worldly" status quo which existed in Chichele's time.

When the Wars of the Roses, which began in 1455 with the Battle of St. Alban's broke out, Henry VI was king of England. (The grandson of Henry VI, who was a Lancastrian, and had seized the throne in 1399.) Richard, Duke of York, basing his statement on this fact, announced that Henry VI had no real claim to the throne. Quite early in the war Richard succeeded in putting Henry off the throne, and crowning Edward IV, who was a Yorkist. Later Henry came back to the throne, and in the battles that he fought trying to retain his position, he was defeated at Northampton in 1460, and later at the battle of Tewkesbury in 1471, he was once again ousted. Richard of York became Richard III and held power until he was defeated in 1485 at Bosworth by Henry, Earl of Richmond. He later became Henry VII and established a new dynasty—that of the Tudor's.

Nothing spectacular happened in Higham Ferrers in Henry VII's reign, and the unspeakable harm done in that of his son has already been dealt with, and the changes wrought in the church, the chantry, the Bede House, and the College have been covered. Mary was the next Tudor to have a direct connection with the town, for in 1556, she and Phillip presented the town with a then magnificently colored Royal Charter, on heavy parchment, with a now-faded engraving of the two sovereigns, side by side. "And Higham's first member of Parliament was Ralph Lane."⁵⁵

During the Elizabethan period of history, Northamptonshire is marked by the rise, or at least, the development of three great houses—"that of the Comptons at Castle Ashby."⁵⁶ Their importance grew and that of the Comptons at Castle Ashby."⁵⁶ Their importance grew with the years; and their descendants, together with others who came later, truly make Northamptonshire a county of "squires & spires" (see the "thirty-two churches seen at one view"). The castle of Fotheringay (like that of Higham—although Fotheringay is much later on in history) is now only represented by a mound of earth and a trench or two. In its hall, in 1586, Mary Queen of Scots, was executed. Although this is decidedly historically important, it must be described as one of those events which happened in Northamptonshire, rather than being directly connected with the county.

In 1605, James I followed the pattern set by Phillip and Mary, and granted another charter to Higham Ferrers. It was in his reign that the Visitations of Northamptonshire of 1618-19 took place. Higham Ferrers is listed as a corporation in this document, and together with a picture of the Seal, it reads thus:

"This is the Common Seal of the Borough of Higham Ferrers

⁵⁵*Souvenir of the 700th Anniversary of the First Borough Charter and the Festival of Britain. Op. cit., pg. 15.*

⁵⁶Murray, *Op. cit.*, pg. 11.

anciently incorporated by the name of Maior, Burgesses, and Cominaltie, and of later tymes by the name of Maior, Alderman, and Burgesses of the same Borough, together with divers and sundry large privileges to them granted, of which said Borough at the tyme of this Visitation vizit, 1 September, o'o 1618, Thomas Rudde, Esq. was Maior, John Dewberry, Richard Warner, John Fiche, Simon Walton, and Henry Freeman, Aldermen; and Arthur Godday, Esq. **Steward**."⁵⁷

This source also contains the genealogies of Henry Freeman, one of the aldermen; Arthur Gooday, the steward, and Thomas Rudde, the mayor himself.

Although the Seal which is now in common use, and appears on the Town Hall, has only nine heads represented on it, the older Seal, mentioned in the Visitation of 1618, has ten heads:

"and the legend—S: Communa: Burgesw.de Hecham. This old Seal is thought to depict the blessing of the ten disciples (John 20: 19) and probably dates from the first incorporation. One modern Seal has given rise to the unofficial motto—'One Majority Ruler'."⁵⁸

When the Civil War broke out, Northamptonshire once again came into prominence, mainly because of its central position. The first battle of the War took place on October 23, 1642, in the nieghboring county of Warwick, but Edgehill—the actual location—is quite close to the border of our county. Almost all of the shire declared for the Parliament. Prince Rupert was sent to Twocester to head a royalist garrison in 1644, but was almost immediately withdrawn.⁵⁹ No reason is given for his departure, but since practically everyone was either actively or sympathetically involved in the Roundhead opposition, I don't imagine that his job was recommended as a health cure. The last great battle of the war took place at Naseby, Northamptonshire, on June 14, 1645, and numerous other slight combats took place there.

"Many skirmishes occurred in different parts of the county before peace was entirely restored, the most noticeable of which was perhaps that in which Cromwell's general, Lambert, was taken. It was at Holdenby (Northamptonshire) that Charles I passed into the hands of Cornet Joyce."⁶⁰

When the people decided that they were tired of the rigid Cromwellian policy, Charles II was recalled from France, and re-instated with due ceremony. It was under this popular monarch that Higham Ferrers received two charters, one in 1664, and another in 1684.

In 1791 John Lee, Member of Parliament for Higham, presented the borough with its official mace:

"The mace, of silvergilt, is three inches in length, and has a slender shaft divided by knaps into three sections. The head, supported on three plain scrolls, is elongated, and has four oval panels filled with various devices, and around it an inscription recording

⁵⁷Walter C. Metcalfe, *The Visitations of Northamptonshire in 1564-1618-19*. (London: Mitchell Company, 1887) pg. 162.

⁵⁸George Harrison, *A Wanderer in Northamptonshire*. (London: Mitre Press, 1948). pg. 201.

⁵⁹*Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Article: "Northamptonshire" *Op. cit.*, pg. 519.

⁶⁰Murray, *Op. cit.*, pg. 12.

its gift to the Borough in 1791 by John Lee, M.P. for Higham. On the flat top are the Royal Arms, and surrounding the head an open crown with orb and cross. The donor's arms are engraved on the shaft."⁶¹

As it stood, the corporation former consisted of a Mayor, seven aldermen, and thirteen capital burgesses, a recorder and deputy recorder and it could send one Member to Parliament, but in 1832, by the Reform Bill, "as a Pocket Borough, it was disenfranchised."⁶² However, in spite of the dissolution of the corporation, it remained a borough, and a new Charter of Incorporation was given in June, 1887, by Queen Victoria. From that time on it has been governed by a mayor, four aldermen, and twelve councillors.

We come now to Higham's place in the modern world. Midland England claims world-wide fame for its shoe manufacturing, and Higham has a large share in this industry. The making of shoes is no new thing here, however, for the town has had factories for over a century and substantial industries that date back to the Middle Ages. Because of the rich grassland in the Nene Valley, cattle were abundant.

"Cattle flourished, supplying hides in plenty, and the bark of the oak trees yielded the liquor needed for tanning process. Skins of smaller animals provided the lighter leathers which, through treatment with oils and fats—the currying process—were suitable for the 'uppers' of boots and shoes."⁶³

The river greatly contributed in the transportation of these leather goods, and the fact that leather was right at hand, and transportation was good, coupled with the national, and later, international, demand, the tanners, curriers, and shoemakers became the founders of a large industry. Of course, methods have changed through the centuries, but the old centers have remained.

"The twin industry of leather and boots is more intensive in and around Higham than anywhere else in England. The district in question, consisting chiefly of the towns of Rushden, Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough and Raunds, has a total population of about 30,000, and of this number no fewer than 7,500 are working in the staple industry. . . . Higham Ferrers comes out well from the analysis, for with its population of about 3,500 (1949 est.) it affords employment to more than 1,300 persons, of whom over 900 are engaged in boot and shoe manufacture and 200 in leather dressing."⁶⁴

The oldest actual firm now operating was established in 1852. Footwear for men is the field of concentration, and although the export quantity is far exceeded by the national demand, it is, nonetheless, of considerable value, "Midway between the two world wars it was estimated that Higham produced annually sufficient leather to lay a foot wide carpet that would reach London."⁶⁵

⁶¹George Harrison, *Op. cit.*, pg. 201.

⁶²*Souvenir of the 700th. Anniversary of the First Borough Charter and of the Festival of Britain. Op. cit.*, pg. 15.

⁶³*The Borough of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire. Official Guide. Op. cit.*, pg. 19.

⁶⁴*Ibid.*, pgs. 19 & 21.

⁶⁵*The Borough of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire. Official Guide. Op. cit.*, pg. 21.

About fifty people are employed in the Engineering industry. Examples of its products are machinery for leather-dressing and tanning trades, and presses for the plastic industry. All branches of farming are carried on in the neighborhood, and the famous shire stallions are bred here.

Thus Higham Ferrers is a busy industrial town, and, at the same time, an ancient borough, lifted bodily, as it were, from the Middle Ages. Due to excellent planning and forethought, the two phases of the town are completely separated, and anyone travelling down Hing Street, carried away by thoughts of William de Ferrers and Henry Chichele, would never dream that shoe-manufacturing even existed. While keeping abreast of the times it has lost none of the quiet dignity which sets a thinking man apart from his more heedless brothers.

I conclude with a quote by Mr. E. H. Bates, the well-known author:

"Higham Ferrers does not belong simply to history: it belongs, like history itself, to the future, Leave it alone therefore: the unique group of Ecclesiastical buildings, the 18th. century houses, the College, the pubs, Wood Street with its limes, the incomparable Square with the Chestnut trees. It can only grow in beauty."⁶⁶

⁶⁶*Souvenir of the 700th. Anniversary of the First Borough Charter and of the Festival of Britain. op. cit., pg. 35.*

MATER DOLOROSA (reprint)

BY MARY E. MANNIX

*When Mary the Mother of Jesus
Bathed His baby feet,
Kissing them and caressing,
They were so pure and sweet.
I wonder if it were given
Her inmost soul to know,
The long and ceaseless journeys
Those tender feet must go?*

*When Mary the Mother of Sorrows,
Beneath the gibbet stood,
His feet, once white and stainless,
Were dark with dust and blood;
But when from the Cross they bore Him,
Ended those lonely years,
With trembling lips she touched them
Cleansing them with her tears.*

Dog's Best Friend

By Donna O'Connor

First, let's get this straight. I'm a dog. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not just an ordinary dog. I come from a long line of thoroughbreds. Of course, they weren't all the same breed, but you'd better let me explain.

I am four feet high (on my hind legs), have reddish brown fur, inherited from my thoroughbred mother who was an Irish Setter. Mixed into my reddish fur is a smattering of grayish black speckles. The speckles are explained by the fact that my Dad was a Dalmation. His grandfather used to ride the fire trucks. Boy, the stories his grandpa could tell! Anyway, back to me.

Another distinguishing feature, my long ears, are inherited from my uncle, a Cocker Spaniel. These come in handy on cold nights to keep my nose warm.

I don't happen to be registered, because, well, you see it's kind of personal. But anyway, my owner, Joe, isn't either, so we have a lot in common.

Joe acquired me when I was about six months old, and I have been training him quite successfully ever since. I have taught him how to shake hands with me and to fetch my ball. He's learned not to tug at the leash when I take him for a walk. He makes a devoted companion.

Joe has a wife. I don't like her too well. She comes from a long line of bluebloods. I've got a pretty good setup around here. It's nicer when my mistress is gone, then I get to sleep in the big overstuffed chair in the living room. Some dogs prefer a kennel because it's more sanitary, but I have no gripe. Sometimes I misjudge my timing and my mistress catches me snoozing away in the chair—too bad!

Let me tell you some more about Joe. He's such a character. He's round and jolly with a white fringe around his head and a big, red nose that looks as though it's on fire, especially when he drinks his medicine. At least, that's what he tells the "battleax" he's drinking. But Joe and I know—we're buddies.

The only thing that gets me down about Joe is that he's so hard to teach any tricks. I've discovered that training a man takes time. Some men are a little slow to respond, but a dog who makes allowances and tries to put himself in the man's place will be rewarded with a loyal pal. Men are apt to be high-strung and sensitive, and a dog who loses his temper will only break the man's spirit. It was quite a task for me to remember this when I was teaching Joe to heel, and I shall explain this process briefly.

For this lesson the dog should hook one end of a leash to his collar and hook the other around the man's wrist so he can't get away. Start down the street slowly, pausing at each telephone pole, until the man realizes that he's under control. He may tug and yank

at first, but this can be discouraged by slipping deftly between his legs and winding the leash around his ankles. If the man tries to run ahead, brace all fours and halt suddenly, thus jerking him flat on his back. After a few such experiences (as with the case of Joe), the man will follow his dog with ease.

I try to keep Joe in the best of shape at all times. The only way to do this is never to give him a chance to relax. I find that racing him up and down the street at the end of a leash is a great conditioner. If he attempts to slump into an easy chair when we get back home, I leap into it ahead of him (when the "battleax" isn't around) and force him to sit in a straightbacked chair to improve his posture. And just to be sure, I get him up several times a night to go out for a walk, especially if it's raining.

Every man should learn to retrieve a rubber ball. The way I taught Joe this trick was simple. I would lie in the center of the floor while Joe carried the ball to the far side of the room and rolled it to me, uttering the word "Fetch!" I would watch the ball carefully as it rolled past me and under the sofa. Joe would then retrieve the ball from under the sofa and roll it past me again, giving the command "Fetch!"

After awhile, Joe got so he could retrieve the ball every time he said "Fetch!" To add a little variety, I would substitute other articles for him to pick up, such as an old bone or a piece of paper discarded in the wastebasket.

Not every dog who tries to bring up a man properly is as successful as I have been. The answer lies in understanding. You've got to be patient and not work yourself into a frazzle if your man cannot wriggle under fences as well as you. After all, as the old saying goes, "It's hard to teach an old man new tricks!"

A DESERT MORNING

BY RUBY CONAWAY

*Into the cool calm of a desert morning
A brilliant sphere of light slowly rises,
And scatters its brightness everywhere—*

*Into every little hole, around each mound,
Across the sandy and plant studded hills,
And over the mountains it goes.*

*And as this brightness diffuses over earth,
Then, they that thrive in darkness retire,
And they that dwell in the day emerge.*

Outcast to Hero

By Arline Szaudy

Sophocles' "Oedipus at Colonus" has for its central figure an old, dethroned and banished king, driven half-mad by his appalling experiences, and breathing a strange atmosphere of kingly pride alternating with helplessness, of intense agitation with profound peace. This older Oedipus of Sophocles' later drama feels no need to repent for his involuntary acts of patricide and marriage to his mother, and never wavering in the firm conviction of his innocence, he is transformed from an outcast to a hero, from a despised wanderer to an object of respect and awe.

The journey from outcast to hero gives the play a certain governing movement. An attempt to show how Sophocles makes Oedipus advance from his temporary low position to one of extreme dignity is the subject of this paper.

In the prologue we get an impression of a blind old man. To the stranger in the prologue, Oedipus is "well-born," though obviously unlucky. The stranger allows him to remain where he is. The chorus, on the other hand, seeing him rise within the sacred grove, is terrified at the mere voice and sight of Oedipus, and by his name and story. In horror they order "Leave this grove at once! Our country is not for you!" Such is the figure whom we see, led in by his daughter, Antigone. We hear that peace has been promised him at the sacred grove which he has now reached, but of his strange power, that of benefiting Athens, we have only a few bare hints. One of these hints is seen when Oedipus is speaking to Antigone.

A resting place,
After long years . . . where
I should find home among the powers of justice:
That there I might round out my bitter life,
Conferring benefit on those who received me,
A curse on those who have driven me away.

The revulsion which the chorus feels towards Oedipus in the beginning of the play makes a splendid opening movement, because this is the very bottom of Oedipus' climb to glorification. Oedipus has to fight to maintain his position, and has obviously done so as shown in the following quotation.

Old man,
This argument of yours compels our wonder.
It was not feebly worded. I am content
That higher authorities should judge this matter.

The quotation contains an explicit reference to Oedipus' growing stature since the chorus has, in just a few stanzas, changed its mood to one of better understanding of Oedipus. The chorus, feeling that Oedipus' case is too grave for them to decide, send for Theseus, King of Athens.

In the meantime, a younger daughter of Oedipus, Ismene, arrives with the news that her brothers are quarrelling about the throne of Thebes. Eteocles, the younger brother, has usurped the sovereignty, while Polyneices has fled to Argos to engage the chiefs of the Achaeans in his cause. Both brothers are eager to capture Oedipus since an oracle has proclaimed that with him only, will victory abide. Oedipus, on hearing this news, bursts into a strain of passionate denunciation, which proves that the old fire of his temper is smouldering still.

To emphasize still more Oedipus' growing power in this scene, twice before the oracles are declared he is made to refer to his present lowly position. But after the denunciation, Oedipus speaks with a new confidence, as one whom Athens may be glad to welcome and Thebes may vainly hope to capture.

In the next scene, Theseus, King of Athens, arrives. Theseus' manner is that of a good-natured and hospitable friend. He formally accepts Oedipus and promises him full protection. Oedipus assures Theseus that such kindness shall not go unrewarded, that he will prove useful and serviceable to Athens. The stature of Oedipus continues to grow. His following speech shows a very different Oedipus from the one who had to ask favors of the stranger, in the prologue and of the chorus.

Most gentle son of Aegeus! The immortal
 Gods alone have neither age nor death!
 All other things almighty Time disquiets. . . .
 And so with you and Thebes: the sweet season
 Holds between you now; but time goes on . . .
 and on one day
 They'll break apart with spears this harmony—
 All for a trivial word.
 And then my sleeping and long-hidden corpse,
 Cold in the earth, will drink hot blood of theirs. . . .
 Be careful that you keep your word to me;
 For if you do you'll never say of Oedipus
 That he has given refuge uselessly—
 Or if you say it, then the gods have lied.

What follows, before the final climax of the drama, consists of the efforts made by Creon, on the part of Eteocles, and by Polyneices, to enlist Oedipus upon their sides in the war of succession to the Theban throne. Creon displays his heartless, cunning, and forceful character, while Oedipus exposes Creon's selfish arguments. The chief dramatic value of this scene is to exhibit the sublimity of the wrath of Oedipus which emphasizes his importance, even more.

After Creon has been thwarted in his attempt to carry off Antigone, Polyneices approaches with a fictitious sorrow for his father's desolation. Oedipus uses the same insight towards Polyneices to expose him, that he had used to expose Creon. During this meeting with Polyneices Oedipus reveals the curse launched against his two sons.

. . . you shall die
 By your own brother's hand, and you shall kill
 The brother who banished you.

The dialogues with Creon and Polyneices serve to enhance the grandeur of Oedipus. He, all the while, is seated on a bench, a blind, weary old man. Yet, to this man come princes and warriors. He rejects them, firm in the belief of his destiny in heaven.

After Polyneices leaves the presence of his father, thunder is heard, and the end of the play approaches. Oedipus declares in his speech that, though blind, he will direct his steps unhelped. Theseus is to follow to learn the secret that Oedipus alone can reveal. A messenger comes and gives the solemn narration of Oedipus' disappearance. We hear a voice call, "Oedipus! Oedipus! Why are we waiting? . . . you delay too long to go!" In the opening scenes of the play we saw how Oedipus was at everyone's mercy, a blind, old man, dependent on the decency of a casual passerby, but by the end of the play he towers above everyone, and leaves to keep a strange appointment with heaven.

A PILGRIM (reprint)

BY MARY E. MANNIX

*Hedged in by love and care;
His first bright years were passed;
No darkening storm-clouds there
His Heaven to overcast.
Sheltered 'neath changeless skies
From life's harsh thrust and throng.
How could he have grown wise?
How could he have been strong?*

*Flung on a tragic day
Into the world's wide mart,
How could he find the way,
He with his untried heart?
Buffeted everywhere,
By many a cruel gale,
How could he calmly fare?
How could he help but fail?*

*Yesterday he went Home
Home to the "Promised Land,"
Never again to roam
From reach of His Father's hand.
Rugged the paths he climbed,
With stumbling feet, unshod,
At last to rest on a Mother's breast,
In the Light of the Smile of God.*

THE FATHER OF THE LUNATIC BOY

(Mark 9:23)

BY WENDY FREEDMAN

*Seventy hours of waiting became as yesterday
As the distance shortened between You and my life—
Raging at my side.
I knew Your coming wasn't rumor,
But planned all along:
For everything is Now with You;
And though I desire impossibility, I ask only an instant—
You need no more.*

*In love You created two,
And in foresight, fathered law:
And never was need that lasted.
Yet, from love and within law arose this need of mine,
Not without purpose, I know,
For You did supply essentials,
And lest we weaken,
We were exercised with fear and sadness.*

*Oh, speaking to You now seems unnecessary:
We have proof of Your creation: the beauty
From your being so near has never left—
Because You have not.
You would be surprised, if You could,
That I should ask for more,
But he is my only son.
Lord, help Thou my unbelief.*

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